

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW GENERA AND SPECIES OF NEW
ZEALAND COLEOPTERA.

BY D. SHARP, M.B.

(continued from page 28.)

TELMATOPHILUS NITENS, *n. sp.*

Colore variabilis; rufo-testaceus, elytris plus minusve infuscatis, maculis pallidis magnis quatuor: convexus, nitidus, fere nudus; thorace sat fortiter punctato; elytris minus subtiliter punctato-striatis, punctis apice obsolete. Long. corp. 2—2½ mm.

This species, though closely allied to *T. depressus*, is very distinct therefrom, by its more convex form, and stronger punctuation; it has also the legs and antennæ rather shorter and stouter. The colour is very variable, being sometimes reddish-yellow, with a dark band across the middle of the elytra, leaving a pale humeral, and apical spot on each; this dark colour extends sometimes so as to occupy entirely the elytra; and the prothorax is also, in such specimens, so much infuscate as to be nearly black.

Also a common species, I believe, about Auckland.

APHODIUS DISTANS, *n. sp.*

Angustulus, parallelus, sat convexus, nudus, nigro-piceus, antennis pedibusque dilutioribus; capite mutico; prothorace transverso, elytris latiore, basi crebre fortiter, punctato, punctis antierius magis sparsis; elytris crenato-striatis, humeris acute tuberculatis. Long. corp. 4¾ mm.

Head very convex, finely punctured without any traces of tubercles; clypeus much emarginate. Thorax greatly broader than long, in front a good deal broader than the elytra, narrowed to the base, which is as broad as the elytra; the surface is without depressions, but bears irregularly-distributed coarse punctures, which, on the middle of the front part, are almost absent. Elytra with nine striae, each of which is punctured with large, but rather distant, punctures, and also with a series of punctures along the lateral margin. The scutellum is elongate and narrow. The middle coxæ are widely separated; the basal joint on the hind tarsus is as long as the hind spur.

Two individuals sent from Tairua by Captain Brown; they are no doubt the two sexes, for in one of them the pygidium is a good deal more inflexed, and the apical ventral segment shorter in the middle, than in the other.

APHODIUS SUSPECTUS, *n. sp.*

Angustulus, parallelus, sat convexus, nudus, piceus, nitidus; prothorace transversim quadrato, elytrorum latitudine, fortiter punctato; elytris fortiter striato-punctatis, humeris haud acutis.

Long. corp. 4¼ mm.

Very closely allied to *A. distans*, but rather smaller and shorter, and with the thorax less transverse; the striæ of the elytra are a good deal deeper, and their punctures are nearer to one another. Besides these slighter characters, the two species present some more important distinctions. The legs in *A. suspectus* are shorter, and the long spur of the hind tibiæ reaches as far as the apex of the 2nd tarsal joint; the shoulders of the elytra are not acute, and the middle coxæ are not so widely separated.

An individual of this species was sent me some years ago by Mr. Edwards of San Francisco, with the No. 1709 attached.

Obs.—This species and the preceding, though allied to the genera *Saprosites*, *Euparia*, and *Atænius*, will not at present satisfactorily accord with any of them. I think, however, for the present, they may be best placed in *Saprosites*, which is rather vaguely characterized by Redtenbacher. The *Oxyomus exsculptus* of White is from his description probably a species allied to these two; it is not applicable to a *Proctophanes*, to which genus it is referred in Harold's Catalogue; a species of which genus occurs, however, in New Zealand. I have a third species allied to *A. distans* and *A. suspectus*, but much smaller and more deeply striated, which I suspect to be White's species; it is similar in size and form to our *Aphodius cæsus* (*Psammodius*), but is a little broader, and has the angles of the elytra very acute. According to Captain Broun it is found in the wood of *Sophora tetraptera*.*

APHODIUS BROUNI, n. sp.

Nigricans, convexus, minus elongatus, subopacus; antennis pedibusque dilutioribus; thorace transverso, angulis posterioribus fere nullis, crebre irregulariter punctato; elytris striatis, striis apice profundioribus, minus distincte punctatis.

Long. corp. $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm.

Head impunctate except on the extreme vertex, quite without elevations; clypeus emarginate. Thorax strongly transverse, rather wider than the elytra, the front angles rounded and a little produced, the hind angles extremely indistinct and obtuse; the surface bears numerous rather deep, but not very coarse, punctures, which are irregularly distributed, and nearly wanting about the front; the surface is rather dull. The elytra are rather short, and bear each nine somewhat deep, but rather fine, striæ; they are deepest on the deflexed portion: the punctures these striæ bear are only indistinct; the surface is dull, but the interstices are not punctured. The legs are short, the tibiæ stout, the long spur on the hind ones reaching nearly to the apex of the 2nd joint. The mesosternum is densely and finely rugose so as to be very dull; the space between the middle legs is carinate.

* Since the above was in print, I have received from Mr. Pascoe a specimen of what appears to me to be a third species of this group; it is very closely allied to *A. suspectus*, but is considerably larger, the punctures of the thorax are rather more numerous, and the striæ of the elytra, as also their punctures, are somewhat finer, so that the interstices are broader; the following diagnosis will characterize it:—

APHODIUS PASCOEI, n. sp.

Angustulus, parallelus, nigricans, nitidus; prothorace transversim quadrato, elytrorum latitudine, fortiter punctato; elytris striato-punctatis, interstitiis latis, humeris prominulis, vix oculis.

Long. corp. $5\frac{1}{4}$ mm. D. S.

Sent by Mr. Edwards and Captain Broun; Mr. Edwards' specimen with the No. 1708; some of Captain Broun's individuals were indicated as found in the wood of *Sophora tetraptera*.

OBS.—This species is rather smaller than our European *A. biguttatus*, and somewhat similar in form thereto; I think it may be placed in Harold's genus *Atænius*; in many respects it resembles *A. distans* and its allies, but is very readily distinguished from them by the rugose mesosternum. It varies in colour, the elytra being sometimes obscure red.

PYRONOTA.

Only one New Zealand species (*Melolontha festiva*, Fab.) of this genus is at present recognised; the *P. refulgens*, Bois., which is in the Munich Catalogue referred to New Zealand, being, according to Burmeister and Lacordaire, an inhabitant of New Guinea; while *Melolontha lata*, Fab., is generally considered to be a mere variety of *M. festiva*. Though I cannot speak positively as to this latter point (having only one specimen which I can consider to be Fabricius' *M. lata*), yet I am able to say that several species exist in New Zealand closely allied to one another, and I think I distinguish four distinct forms.

1. The form which is commonest in collections is, I believe, Fabricius' *M. festiva*; it is sent commonly from Auckland, and is 8 or 9 mm. in length; it is above of a beautiful pale green, somewhat metallic colour, has a well-marked stripe on the middle of the thorax and along the suture of the elytra, of a fuscous colour, and a rather paler stripe near the lateral margin of each wing case; the under-side is reddish, the legs and antennæ yellow, the club of the latter black. In the male, the club of the antennæ is about three-eighths of a line in length; the front tibiæ are broad and curved, and their apex (or apical tooth) is broad and much turned outwards; the basal joint of the tarsus very long, and inserted far up the tibia.

2. PYRONOTA EDWARDSI, n. sp.

Supra minus late viridis, cupreo-fusco refulgens, subtus fusca; sine lineis obscurioribus, sed sutura cupreo refulgente.

Long. corp. 6½—8 mm.

Mas, tibiis anterioribus angustulis, rectis.

This form differs from *Melolontha festiva* by its more obscure colour, comparatively rather shorter and broader form, by the absence of stripe on the thorax, and by the metallic suture, and absence of the intra-marginal lateral stripe of the elytra; and by the differences in the male characters. In that sex the club of the antenna is rather longer than in *M. festiva*; the front tibia is more slender, and is straight; the apical tooth is slender and very little directed outwards; the basal joint of the tarsus is short, and inserted near the apex of the tibia.